(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the details of the total estimated expenditure to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Government constantly review the security environment and accordingly decide to induct appropriate equipment and to make other arrangements for adequate defence preparedness. The purchase of aircraft is made in accordance with the established Defence Procurement Procedure.

HIV screening before defence recruitment

†1686. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to undertake HIV screening test before recruitment in the Armed Froces;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether provision for such test is being introduced before recruitment in other Government services apart from Armed Forces; and

(d) if so, the services included under this plan?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) As per the existing policy, the Armed Forces carry out thorough medical test of the candidates to rule out a number of known infectious diseases before recruitment. Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) falls under the category of infectious diseases. Accordingly, a case for introduction of pre-recruitment HIV test in the Armed Forces has been moved by the DGAFMS. No final decision in the matter has been taken by the Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Purchase of fighter aircrafts from Russia

1687. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister DEFENCE be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government have decided to purchase fighter aircrafts from Russia recently;

(b) if so, the names, the number and other details thereof, the price of each such aircraft and when they are expected to reach India;

(c) whether these fighter aircrafts are on the pattern of MIG21, MIG 25 and MIG 29, which are Russian products; and

(d) how such aircrafts shall be able to face the challenge of US or China fighter aircrafts?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Government constantly review the security environment and accordingly decide to induct appropriate equipment and to make other arrangements for adequate defence preparedness. The purchase of aircraft is made in accordance with the established Defence Procurement Procedure.

Stress management in Armed Forces

1688. SHRI S.S.AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of suicide among Armed Forces' personnel have been increasing;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise during the last three years;

(c) the steps taken for stress management commensurating to the emerging hazards in their duty, since their rising mental/physical stress attributable to their prolonged engagement in countering terrorist infiltrations and insurgency, especially in inhospitable terrains;

(d) the details of Government agencies and NGOs engaged, infrastructure created/dedicated and parameters adopted to meet the enhanced need of stress management of our Armed Forces' personnel; and

(e) the procedures followed in identification and selection of the NGOs for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The total number of suicides reported in the years 2004,2005,2006 and 2007 (till 5.3.2007) in the Army, Navy and Air Force are as under:—